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VOTING BODY ACTION

Martha L. Orr, MN, RN
Executive Director



Constituent of The American
Nurses Association

NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

2113 Western Avenue, Guilderland, N.Y. 12064, (518) 456-5371

November 8, 1988

TO: Councils and Committees
Executive Committees, NYSNA Clinical Practice
and Functional Units
Chairpersons, Councils of Nursing Practitioners
Presidents and Executive Directors, Constituent
District Nurses Associations

FROM: Martha L. Orr, Executive Director

RE: 1988 NYSNA VOTING BODY ACTION AND RELATED INFORMATION

NYSNA Voting Body action provides focus and direction for Association activity throughout the ensuing year. Copies of the following items are attached. They are provided to assist you in interpreting and responding to voting body action as you implement the specific responsibilities of your organizational leadership position.

- 1) Bylaw amendment;
- 2) 1989 Legislative Program;
- 3) Resolution on free prenatal care for all women;
- 4) Resolution on homelessness;
- 5) Resolution on nurses in private practice;
- 6) Resolution on opposition to proposed registered care technologist (RCT);
- 7) Resolution on training and supervision of proposed RCT;
- 8) Resolution on organizational mission;

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- 9) Motion calling for consideration of educational activities about the membership base;
- 10) 1988 election results;
- 11) Board of Directors;
- 12) Schedule of 1989 Board meetings and policy on open board meetings.

We deeply appreciate your contribution to the success of convention, and welcome your continuing involvement and leadership.

If you have any questions about the enclosed materials, please call Wendy Burbank.

Best wishes for the holidays.

WMB

cc: Board of Directors
Presidents and Executive Directors, ANA Constituent
State Nurses Associations
President and Executive Director, ANA

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS ADOPTED BY 1988 VOTING BODY

The 1988 Voting Body adopted the following amendment to the NYSNA Bylaws.

Article III - Disciplinary Action

Addition of new Section 3.

Section 3.

Disciplinary action taken by any SNA against its members shall be recognized by this association.

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

1989 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

- A. Monitor and influence state and federal legislative proposals affecting health care issues, the public good and the nursing profession. Current support includes but is not limited to:
 - 1. protection of the health of vulnerable populations;
 - 2. promotion of access to health care for all people;
 - 3. obtaining insurance coverage for preventive health care;
 - 4. equal rights;
 - 5. pay equity and comparable worth;
 - 6. environmental clean-up and protection.
- B. Obtain mandatory third-party reimbursement for all registered professional nurses.
- C. Standardize nursing education within institutions of higher learning maintaining two careers, one professional and one technical. Corresponding titles will be registered professional nurse and associate nurse.
- D. Repeal the exemption clause in the Nurse Practice Act which permits unlicensed personnel to practice professional and practical nursing in institutions coming under the jurisdiction of the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.
- E. Protect the Nurse Practice Act from inappropriate revision or amendment.
 - 1. preserve the integrity of the Act;
 - 2. protect the scope of practice of all nurses;
 - 3. continue to affirm registered professional nurses' authority to provide primary health care services;
 - 4. promote the profession's authority to identify specialty practice, titles and credentials through certification and other voluntary self-regulatory activities.

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- F. Encourage and support measures to increase state funding for nursing education.
- G. Foster legislative and/or regulatory initiatives to promote recruitment and retention of nurses in New York State.
 - 1. Secure control of nursing practice in all health care settings by professional nurses.
 - 2. Promote actions that will improve the working conditions for all nurses to insure that patients receive the safe professional care of high quality to which they are entitled.

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON FREE PRENATAL CARE FOR ALL WOMEN

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

- WHEREAS, innumerable national efforts to improve the health status and reduce risk factors for pregnant women and infants have not made a significant impact on 1990 target rates in Center for Disease Control morbidity and mortality statistics;
- WHEREAS, New York state ranks seventeenth in the country for infant mortality and one of the major factors causing infant mortality, according to the March of Dimes, is low birth rate which is almost totally preventable through education and medical care;
- WHEREAS, the 1984 ANA House of Delegates adopted as a priority for the Association the goal of achieving "access to essential health and nursing care services for all people" by identifying "vulnerable populations with unmet needs for health care and work[ing] to assure federal funding to provide access to nursing services for these populations";
- WHEREAS, the 1985 ANA House of Delegates adopted a resolution to "include within the Association's legislative and regulatory priorities an initiative to reflect ANA's commitment to pursue legislation aimed at reducing barriers to quality prenatal and perinatal care, particularly for women of vulnerable populations"; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the New York State Nurses Association develop strategies to support free and appropriate prenatal health care for all women regardless of color, creed or immigration status.

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON HOMELESSNESS

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

- WHEREAS, the number of homeless persons in New York state has increased dramatically and continues to rise;
- WHEREAS, the homeless are a heterogeneous group consisting of single adults, families and youth;
- WHEREAS, the causes of homelessness are complex, but include the lack of affordable housing, gentrification, deinstitutionalization, unemployment, economic recession, increasing substance abuse, inadequacies of the welfare system and family breakdown;
- WHEREAS, the fastest growing segment of the homeless population is the homeless family, and approximately eighty-five percent of homeless families consist of single mothers with children;
- WHEREAS, in New York state, there are many homeless persons with multiple health problems, including HIV disease, living in shelters and on the streets;
- WHEREAS, homeless persons present themselves in many settings where registered nurses practice, such as hospitals, clinics and the community;
- WHEREAS, nurses must often discharge homeless clients from hospitals and clinics to the streets or to unsafe shelters because community resources are inadequate;
- WHEREAS, homelessness is a profoundly negative factor in the physical and mental health of the client and the community;

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- WHEREAS, holistic nursing care of homeless persons often requires that the clients be provided with humane housing and with on-site services to support health and social well being;
- WHEREAS, successful nurse-run centers to provide health care services to the homeless presently exist in some areas of New York state; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the New York State Nurses Association adopt the position that the homeless have a right to adequate health care and to the basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing without which good health cannot be maintained; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NYSNA strongly advocate comprehensive state and city legislation that will fund emergency relief, preventive measures and long-term solutions to the problem of homelessness including construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NYSNA advocate funding for nurse-run centers to provide health care services to the homeless throughout New York state.

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON NURSES IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

- WHEREAS, an increasing number of registered professional nurses is meeting health care needs in the community by providing professional nursing services to clients in their homes;
- WHEREAS, some nurses in community health private practice share their office facilities and/or practices with one or more nurses;
- WHEREAS, these practices by professional nurses are extremely cost-effective;
- WHEREAS, the New York State regulation relating to the issuance of home care services agency licenses, 765-2.1(c) states, "the following are exempt from licensure under this Part and Article 36 of the Public Health Law: ... (4) sole practitioners of nursing licensed pursuant to Article 139 of the Education Law";
- WHEREAS, professional nurses practicing in these situations are not reimbursed by any state or federal funds (Medicare or Medicaid), but are reimbursed for their services directly by the patient or family;
- WHEREAS, physicians in private practice as professional corporations are not required to be licensed by the New York State Department of Health; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that the New York State Nurses Association endeavor to have the word "sole" removed from the above-mentioned regulation on the basis that it is unduly restrictive and discriminatory to the practice of professional nursing in the state of New York.

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VOTING BODY ACTION

THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED REGISTERED CARE TECHNOLOGIST (RCT)

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

- WHEREAS, the American Nurses' Association's 1988 House of Delegates moved to monitor, review and oppose all national and state policy formation, legislative efforts and funding designed to create new health care personnel and/or to substitute unqualified personnel for qualified practitioners of nursing;
- WHEREAS, the American Medical Association's 1988 House of Delegates proposed the creation of a new category of licensed health care worker (registered care technologist - RCT) to substitute for nurses at the bedside and execute medical protocols with a special emphasis on technology;
- WHEREAS, the profession of nursing recognizes that the current nursing shortage is serious, and shares with our colleagues in medicine concern that this shortage of prepared bedside care givers is jeopardizing the quality of health care;
- WHEREAS, the health care needs of patients are becoming more complex, and care decisions require knowledge and judgment;
- WHEREAS, there is a limited pool of potential personnel willing to work in the health care industry;
- WHEREAS, training, licensure and registration of a new group of "registered care technologists" would be costly and difficult to coordinate into the existing system;
- WHEREAS, professional nursing organizations are addressing the short-term as well as the long-term solutions to the current nursing shortage; therefore be it

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- RESOLVED, that the New York State Nurses Association oppose the AMA's proposal for the formation of the registered care technologist, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NYSNA support the concept that the delivery of bedside nursing care to patients in all health care settings is, and shall remain, the responsibility of the nursing profession, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that NYSNA will collaborate with our colleagues in health care to reject this ill-advised RCT proposal and to implement more practical solutions to the current shortage, ones that will ensure the safety of the public entrusted to our care.

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON TRAINING AND SUPERVISION OF PROPOSED REGISTERED CARE TECHNOLOGIST (RCT)

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

WHEREAS, the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body has adopted a resolution to oppose the formation of the registered care technologist (RCT), another health care worker who would further fragment the health care system;

WHEREAS, this resolution further mandates that NYSNA support "the concept that the delivery of bedside nursing care to patients in all health care settings is, and shall remain, the responsibility of the nursing profession";

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association in proposing the formation of the RCT, a new category of bedside care giver, states "the RCT would be accountable for physician orders for patient care ... and would report to the head of the unit where they are assigned" but does not designate who is the unit head; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Voting Body recommend to the NYSNA Board of Directors that a position statement be developed on the inappropriateness of requiring nurses to train and supervise RCTs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this position statement be widely promulgated to the medical community and to all health care providers and organizations.

THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

WHEREAS, state nurses associations were envisioned by nursing's early leaders as the last link in the chain of their plan for a national self-governing organization of professional nurses;

WHEREAS, the New York State Nurses Association, as the first state nurses association in the country, embraced as its primary purpose securing legal recognition of nursing as a profession in order to better serve society;

WHEREAS, the New York State Nurses Association since its founding in 1901 has adhered to its purpose and has cooperated with ANA and other state nurses associations in carrying out the organization's original mission;

WHEREAS, the 1987 ANA House of Delegates voted to change the nature, composition and mission of the original organization of professional nurses;

WHEREAS, NYSNA remains committed to its original mission as a self-governing organization of professional nurses; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that immediately following the 1989 ANA House of Delegates, the NYSNA Board of Directors shall evaluate the status of the membership issue as reflected in the ANA Commission on Organizational Assessment and Renewal report and any related action(s) of the ANA House of Delegates on membership requirements, and be it further

RESOLVED, that if the NYSNA Board of Directors determines that the COAR report and/or House of Delegates action(s) do not preserve the previous membership base consisting exclusively of registered professional nurses for ANA's constituent state nurses associations, the NYSNA Board of Directors is authorized to present to the 1989 NYSNA Voting Body resolutions and bylaw amendments necessary for NYSNA Voting Body consideration.

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

MOTION CALLING FOR CONSIDERATION OF EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP BASE

Adopted by the 1988 NYSNA Voting Body

That the NYSNA Board of Directors consider undertaking a series
of educational activities with regard to the membership base of
the organization - i.e., professional versus occupational models
- prior to the 1989 ANA House of Delegates.

THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

1988 ELECTION RESULTS

Vice President: Joan A. Lynch

Secretary: Maggie Jacobs

Directors at Large:

Janet Arundel Cadogan

Mary Eileen Callan

William Robert Donovan

Miriam Gonzalez

Nominating Committee:

Dorothy Bell

Sister Theresa Graf

Virginia Kemme

Donna M. Leney

Rita Reis Wieczorek, Chairperson

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THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 1988 - October 1989

President: Juanita K. Hunter, EdD, RN
President-elect: Madeline A. Naegle, PhD, RN
Vice President: Joan A. Lynch, PhD, RN
Secretary: Maggie Jacobs, MS, RN
Treasurer: Nettie Birnbach, EdD, RN

Directors at Large:

Erika Baker, BS, RN
 Janet Arundel Cadogan, BA, RN
 Mary Eileen Caillan, MS, RN
 Jerold S. Cohen, MA, RN, CNA
 William R. Donovan, MA, RN
 Miriam Gonzalez, BS, RN
 Bonnie Perratto, MBA, RN, CNA
 Dorothy M. Williams, RN

BD88-9

THE NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1989 MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday and Friday, January 26 and 27, 1989

Thursday and Friday, March 30 and 31, 1989

Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15, 1989

Wednesday and Thursday, July 26 and 27, 1989

Thursday and Friday, September 21 and 22, 1989

Policies Governing Open Board Meetings

Meetings of the NYSNA Board of Directors are open to Association members. The Board of Directors encourages membership attendance at Board meetings as a valuable means of understanding the scope of Association responsibility for issues confronting the profession, roles and relationships within the organization and Association relationships with other organizations.

Policies governing attendance at Board meetings include these provisions:

1. A member desiring to attend a Board meeting shall so notify the chairman of the Board not less than 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting date.
2. Attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors shall be at the expense of the individual.
3. No more than 10 persons may attend a stated Board meeting. Should requests exceed this number, they will be accepted in the order received for the next scheduled meeting(s).
4. Members attending a meeting of the Board of Directors shall have no voice in or vote on the deliberations of the Board of Directors.
5. The dates, times and places of meetings of the New York State Nurses Association's Board of Directors shall be carried in REPORT, the official newsletter of the Association.
6. The Board of Directors retains the right to meet at any time in closed Executive Session should this be deemed necessary or appropriate.
7. The Board of Directors may, for circumstances deemed necessary, cancel and/or reschedule a meeting. Should this happen, every reasonable effort will be made to notify those who have indicated an intent to attend. However, neither the Board of Directors nor the New York State Nurses Association shall assume responsibility for any inconvenience or cost incurred by a member for failure to receive notice of the change in meeting date.
8. All policies pertaining to attendance at meetings of the New York State Nurses Association's Board of Directors are subject to change at the Board's discretion.

MLO/WMB/ker
 11/9/88